

DYNAMIC SERVICE DISCOVERY

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides methods, apparatus and systems that allow devices to enter and leave a local domain often and still allow consumers of the service provided by the device to easily detect its availability. To achieve this, an example embodiment locates a “service discovery proxy” in the local domain. On receiving a service discovery request from a remote inquirer, the proxy resolves the service request based on those services that are determined to be dynamically available in the local domain at that time. The proxy resolves the incoming service request within its local domain by using any method for local service discovery. The response to the service discovery received from the local devices is customized by the service discovery proxy, wherein the customization includes formatting, filtering, aggregating, and/or selecting particular responses. The proxy then sends the customized response back to the remote inquirer.